

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII



WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION

TYLER I. GOMES
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIRMAN

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS**

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF WILLIAM J. AILA, JR, CHAIRMAN
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND
HEARING ON FEBRUARY 4, 2021 AT 9:00AM VIA VIDEO CONFERENCE

HB 753 RELATING TO SCHOOL IMPACT FEES

February 4, 2021

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) strongly supports this bill that excludes housing developed by DHHL from school impact fees. This bill is similar to a measure that was approved by the Hawaiian Homes Commission and included in the Governor's administrative package by request of our department.

Since the enactment of the Hawaiian Homes Commission Act, 1920, as amended, lands set aside for use as Hawaiian Home Lands have been withdrawn for other purposes, including public schools. In addition, development on Hawaiian Home Lands often account for the educational facilities that may be needed to support the community with the siting of public schools, public charter schools, early learning facilities, and other similar facilities on or near Hawaiian Home Lands. Excluding housing developed by DHHL from school impact fees could result in more homes developed. For example, DHHL's sufficient sums 2021-23 biennium budget requests \$6 million for design and construction of 161 lots for the Pu'unani Homestead. The school impact fee of \$5373 per lot for 161 houses is \$865,053 in fees for one subdivision on the island of Maui. These fees could instead be used to develop more lots.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

LATE

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DR. CHRISTINA M. KISHIMOTO
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/04/2021

Time: 09:00 AM

Location: Via Videoconference

Committee: House Water & Land

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0753 RELATING TO SCHOOL IMPACT FEES.

Purpose of Bill: Excludes housing developed by the Department of Hawaiian Home Lands from school impact fees.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 753.

Hawaii's school impact fee law, Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS) Sections 1601-1612, plays a vital role in the development of new school facilities in designated areas where the construction of new housing directly increases student enrollment. Other than direct appropriations from the legislature, school impact fees are the only other source of funding to support the development of new school facilities for the Department.

The Legislature created school impact fees in 2007, with amendments in 2010 and 2016. HRS Section 302A-1603 (a)(3) specifies that anyone who develops new residences in a school impact fee district must pay impact fees "including all government housing projects." Adding additional exemptions would limit the Department's potential for funding sources.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 753.

The Hawai'i State Department of Education is committed to delivering on our promises to students, providing an equitable, excellent, and innovative learning environment in every school to engage and elevate our communities. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.